

Annotated Bibliography

NOAA Fisheries. "Harp Seal - Species Directory." National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). 4 Nov. 2025, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/harp-seal>

The following article was created and published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In addition to providing details and insight on harp seal populations, appearances, behaviors, diets, and lifespans, the article also discusses ongoing threats to the species. One threat discussed is global climate change. The resource provides insight into how harp seals reproduce, give birth, and care for their babies on ice caps. However, global climate change has accelerated the rate at which ice caps are melting. Due to this, when global warming causes the ice caps to melt prematurely, the harp seals' life cycles become negatively affected.

Office of Communications. "Seals, Sea Lions, and Climate Change: Shifting Prey and Habitat Impacts." National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). 22 Mar. 2023, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/climate/seals-sea-lions-and-climate-change-shifting-prey-and-habitat-impacts>

This article's purpose is to inform readers about the ongoing crisis that climate change has on harp seal populations. In addition to affecting the lifecycle of harp seals, climate change has affected numerous other seal species in the Arctic. The article was created and published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It discusses how climate change directly affects habitat changes. Ultimately, this has caused ice caps to melt at a significantly faster rate. When the ice caps melt and break apart, harp seal pups are forced to enter the water before they are ready. It is a significant issue because the pups are not yet able to swim or protect themselves from predators.

National Geographic. "The Harp Seal's Race Against Time - Ep. 5 | Wildlife: The Big Freeze." National Geographic. 8 Aug. 2019, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BF2TZq-ntRQ&ab_channel=NationalGeographic

This short video follows a harp seal pup's race against time. After being born, the pup has ten days before its mother leaves it and migrates north. During these ten days, the pup must become larger and learn how to swim. However, due to climate change and fast-melting ice caps, the seal harp pups have less time to learn how to swim and become independent. As a result, when the ice breaks apart, many of the pups drown because they cannot yet swim. According to the video, in 2017, the ice caps melted and broke apart so early that the entire year's seal harp pups drowned. The video highlights the catastrophic effects of climate change and global warming on arctic harp seals.